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Arena won't open until June

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

It will be at least June before the Township of Minden Hills opens its new arena and recreation complex, councillors agreed during a budget meeting earlier this month

While initially scheduled to be completed in late summer of 2020, finishing touches, including the sealing of concrete floors, the addition of painted lines in the gymnasium, etc., continue to be put on the building. Provincial restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have also meant that many of the activities that would have taken place at the complex have been prohibited.

"I think that anything short of that is a pipe dream, I just don't think it's on," Mayor Brent Devolin said of a June opening during a Jan. 14 budget meeting. "Does that seem like a reasonable date?"

"I agree with June," said Councillor Bob Carter. "In my notes I put June, and then most of the additional staffing, would be sort of in that Sept. 1 timeframe, for the purpose of budgeting. You don't need somebody to be driving a Zamboni in July."

Staffing positions for the facility included in the community services draft budget were a full-time lead hand with salary and benefits totalling \$60,000; a full-time reception and booking position with annual costs of \$47,000; a full-time janitorial labourer with

see COUNCILLORS page 2



You can do it!

Nadia Pesti skates to her mother Stephanie Mahoney of Kushog Lake while at the outdoor Stanhope ice skating rink on Wednesday, Jan. 20. The family, including sister Sydney Castator, were out at the park located next to the community centre on North Shore Road for their regular midday skate. /DARREN LUM Staff

Former Kinmount resident prepares to donate liver

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Brad Warren was scrolling through social media four months ago when he saw a post that made him pause, and then take action that would lead to potentially saving

someone's life.

His friend had posted about her husband needing a liver transplant, and that without it, there was a good chance his life would be cut short.

"I figured, I'm the same blood type they need, how about I look into it to see what the

process is like, because it's not a big deal for me to get a not-very invasive surgery, and my liver will regenerate in a few months, and it could give this guy a long life with his wife and kids," said Warren.

After completing paperwork and some see SICKKIDS page 2

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Councillors continue approving additional expenses

from page 1

\$53,000 in wages and benefits; part-time operators for a total of nearly \$50,000; and part-time student positions totaling approximately \$30,000 for a year, for an overall total of \$240,000 in staffing costs for a year.

Not having the ice until August would also save operating costs, community services director Craig Belfry noted. The ice plant, which had been budgeted to be turned on in January, would not start up until late summer, for example, thereby saving energy costs.

Devolin also noted that even once the complex is open, the ongoing pandemic will likely mean that limited numbers of people will be able to use spaces at one time, as users will have to abide by social distancing protocols.

"Probably not a large number of people in the workout

room, a limited number of persons on the walking track," Devolin said, adding this may equate to a lesser need to be fully staffed.

The project's initial budget was approximately \$12.5 million, with McDonald Brothers Construction, the sole bidder on the project, later coming to council requesting and receiving an additional \$250,000, bringing its total base budget to \$12.75 million. The facility includes an NHL-sized ice rink, six change rooms, office space for community services staff, a multipurpose gymnasium, fitness room and elevated walking track.

Councillors have since approved and continue to approve additional expenditures for the facility, including \$93,000 in equipment and maintenance items required for its operation, \$60,000 for office furniture, and more than \$48,000 in specialized sanitization equipment and cleaning supplies. A

snack bar was not included in the building's construction, something councillors have agreed they want included in the facility. The estimated cost for that canteen – including electrical work, plumbing, appliances, painting, millwork, etc. – was \$40,000, but is now \$60,000.

Some of those items may be added to the loan from Infrastructure Ontario, which is paying for the bulk of the project.

During the Jan. 14 budget meeting, council also approved \$1,800 for volleyball lines to be painted on the gymnasium floor.

"The installation of these lines were not included in the original scope of the work for the project, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation has provided funding for volleyball nets," read a staff report from Belfry. "The gym is also already laid out for volleyball net configuration."

SickKids patient to be recipient of liver donation

from page 1

tests, Warren, who is from Kinmount but lives in Cobourg now, ended up being a match for his friend's husband, but he wasn't the only one.

"Eventually, [donor organizers] sent me an e-mail and said, 'hey, thank you for all of your work and everything, but we found a donor for this guy and he's ready to go in,'" said Warren. "I said, well, was there anyone else I could donate to, because I've already come this far, I've already decided and I'm already ready to go, so I might as well go through with it for someone."

After further testing, Warren was told his liver would be suitable for a pediatric recipient, and he could undergo surgery that would remove about 40 per cent of his liver for that recipient in February.

"I mean, it's great no matter who's getting a liver," he said. "It doesn't change for me, as long as I'm helping someone."

Last June, the Canadian Medical Association Journal reported that COVID-19 outbreaks during the pandemic, the subsequent postponement of surgeries to free up hospital resources and other challenges were causing a disruption in transplant operations and the supply of organs.

"Not everybody has all the time, not everybody's been unlucky enough to be laid off this long and lucky enough that they can go back to their job, but that also means that this poor man, a lot of people can't help him because people can't take the time off work, they can't afford to take the time off work," said Warren.

In Ontario there were 555 donors last year, 244 of them living donors. As of Jan. 26 this year, there are 1,555 people waiting for an organ or tissue donation – 28 of them between the age of 0 and 17, and 266 of them waiting for a liver. At any time, organ and tissue donation is essential to those in need, but still only 35 per cent of Ontarians are registered to be a donor.

"People keep telling me [it's a big deal], but it just seems kind of like the right thing to do," said Warren. "I've been off work because I work in a casino and we're not yet open, so I'm just kind of waiting to go back to work, and I figure I might as well do something with the time," he said.

Warren laughs when told that most people aren't spending their time off due to pandemic restrictions as organ donors, and that Netflix has commonly been an option to fill the time.

"I mean, I've been doing a fair share of that, too," he said. "And this, it's going to take a little bit of time to heal, but it's not a very invasive surgery. For me it's not a big deal, but for them it's life-changing and life-saving, hopefully. I'll go through a little bit of surgery and a little bit of uncomfortable recovery time to save somebody else – it seems like a no-brainer to me."

To prepare to become a donor, Warren said he had to complete paperwork to determine medical history including allergies, and then make visits to Toronto General Hospital for several tests – bloodwork, a chest X-ray, CT scans and an MRI. He's also had several phone calls, including one from a psychologist, who asked his reasons for becoming a donor, and his thoughts about the process.

"There are quite a few questions," he said. "Do you expect to get anything out of this, and are you prepared for if the recipient doesn't pull through, and stuff like that ... I'd like to at least know if they've made it or not, but that's something



Next week, Brad Warren is donating about 40 per cent of his liver to a SickKids patient in need. To help him cover the expenses of being a donor, including during his recovery time, a GoFundMe has been set up in his name. /Submitted photo

the psychologist stressed a lot, are you prepared for if the surgery isn't a success and they don't make it, is that something you're prepared for? As sad as that would be, at least I did as much as I could to give them a fighting chance."

Warren will not know who the recipient of his liver donation is – the Trillium Gift of Life Network oversees transplants in Ontario and keeps donor and recipient information private – but he will be able to write a letter that the recipient can choose to respond to, post-surgery.

"I'm basically going to say, I hope this liver is good for you and I hope you live a long healthy life because of it," said Warren. "I don't really know what I'll say, I hope it just sort of flows out of me at the point when I'm writing the letter."

Initially the surgery was slated for Feb. 18, but has been fast-tracked to Feb. 4.

"The closer it gets the more nervous I get, but it's obviously not going to be nervous enough to deter me from doing it," said Warren. "I'm still excited about it. I'm excited to get in there and experience it and hopefully help this kid."

Warren said the worry of being immunocompromised during the pandemic is causing some nervousness, but the provincial stay-at-home orders in place have left him at home prior to the procedure, and his recovery will see him at home for six to eight weeks of recovery.

To help with the financial stress of being a donor – trips to the hospital, parking while there, and medications post-surgery including a daily needle that might not be covered by Warren's benefits, which run out at the end of February – his girlfriend Kelly Cooney has started a GoFundMe page that in just five days has raised almost \$5,000 from 65 donors to help Warren cover expenses during his recovery. The pair will donate any surplus they don't need to SickKids.

"I've been trying to save money," said Warren. "It's a little tough with COVID and not working. I've managed to save up enough-ish money, and then it got fast-tracked and now I'm falling behind."

Despite that challenge, Warren isn't thinking twice about it.

"It seems like the right thing to do," he said. "I don't understand why more people aren't doing it. ... I encourage everyone to at least think about donating. For me, at least, it doesn't seem like it's a big deal if you've got the time off and you're OK with a little bit of a painful recovery for a few weeks, it could save somebody's life. It could give somebody the rest of their lives with their wife or their kids or their parents if they are a kid."

To help Warren in his recovery, visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-brad-save-a-childs-life>

To learn more about becoming an organ or tissue donor, visit: giftoflife.on.ca or beadonor.ca.



No one injured in bus mishap

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board confirmed that on the morning of Jan. 25, a bus bound for Archie Stouffer Elementary School wound up in the ditch near the intersection of Buckslide Road and Kushog Lake Road. The four students on board and the driver were unharmed, and another bus arrived to transport the students to school. /Submitted

Staff and students return to in-person learning

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

More than 100,000 students from across Ontario returned to in-person learning on Monday morning [Jan. 25], including those from Haliburton County's five elementary schools and one high school.

Trillium Lakelands District School Board announced Jan. 20 that Haliburton's Stuart Baker Elementary School, JD Hodgson Elementary School and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, Minden's Archie Stouffer Elementary School, Cardiff Elementary School and Wilberforce Elementary School would all re-open for in-class learning following an extended Christmas closure, brought on by the provincial lockdown enacted on Dec. 26 to stem the spread of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a statement to media on Sunday [Jan. 24], Ontario's Minister of Education Stephen Lecce said the provincial government was implementing various health and safety measures to ensure a smooth transition back to the classroom.

"Ontario has the most comprehensive and highest funded school safety plan in Canada," Lecce said. "In advance of a return to class, the government will be implementing provincewide targeted asymptomatic testing, more comprehensive screening protocols, and mandatory masking for students in Grades 1 to 3, [indoors] and outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained."

He added, "These new safeguards have been informed by medical leaders and the best available evidence in Canada."

Lecce pointed toward what he called the "successful" reintegration of students back into the classroom in September as proof that a return to in-class learning can be done in a safe manner. He went on to say that leading medical experts have stated that schools in Ontario "remain safe."

"School boards [are] reporting approximately 80 per cent of schools, at the end of last year, [did] not report an active case, and 99.6 per cent of students never having reported a case of COVID-19," Lecce said. "We will continue to review our plan and ensure it provides our schools with the latest safety measures and protocols so our students and staff have maximum protection."

The local school board confirmed on its website that bus transportation would be available for eligible students in Haliburton County as of Monday. Sinead Fegan, TLDSB communications officer told the *Times* that the return to in-

class learning was being viewed as a positive by many local families.

"For the most part, City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton parents/guardians [were] looking forward to the return to school on Jan. 25," Fegan said.

While many parents expressed relief that their students – struggling with online learning, lack of childcare, working parents and inadequate internet availability – would be returning to in-person school, some questioned why schools were reopening during the province's second stay-at-home-order, when in most cases households are restricted from gathering.

Dr. Gemmill, acting medical officer of health for the local health unit, said last week in a press conference that a dedicated team from the health unit follows adherence to health unit guidelines and virus activity in schools and will continue to do so when school reconvenes.

"Schools have to be a priority because it's one of these things that is essential, it's not part of the stay-at-home order theoretically and if kids have to go to school then we have to be there to ensure the measures are in place," he told media.

Prior to the school break happening, Dr. Gemmill said very few cases of COVID-19 were attributed to school transmission.

"Am I worried that there will be a lot of outbreaks in schools if schools go back? The answer is from the experience we've had so far, it appears that schools are not contributing hugely to a spread, and it appears that we are not seeing outbreaks in the school setting," he said. "I am very concerned, very concerned, about social gatherings, about people visiting, about all the things we know happened over the Christmas [holiday], amongst, I'm going to say adults, primarily, that did cause a spread to occur and it did amplify the occurrence of this disease in the population. That's why we were getting up over 3,000, close to 4,000 cases in Ontario per day."

In the health unit's jurisdiction, which includes Haliburton County, City of Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland County, Gemmill said in the past 14 days, "a handful of kids," under the age of 10, about six or eight, tested positive for COVID-19, which he said was "not very many at all."

"Before the break when school was in session, we did follow up with every single case that occurred in kids in schools, and while there were some cases, the cases were not associated with continued transmission within the school," he said. "In other words, yes there may have been a case acquired, I don't know, socially among kids being together outside the school, or in some other venue, maybe a family gathering or whatever, but there was not evidence of spread within the

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...from the experience we've had so far, it appears that schools are not contributing hugely to a spread, and it appears that we are not seeing outbreaks in the school setting

— DR. IAN GEMMILL,
HKPR ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

”

school. In other words we didn't have a lot of other cases coming out of the classrooms where cases had occurred. So that tells me, it's basically an observation, where there's a case in the school, if you do all the right things, you're not going to have much spread so that's why I'm hopeful that when schools reconvene that this trend will continue. It seems to be not the amplifier of disease that social gatherings, particularly of older groups, has been causing."

At the time when staff and students returned to school in September last year, there were no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County, with 15 cases since March being reported as resolved, and the province reporting just more than 300 cases on Sept. 14. Returning to school now, on Jan. 25, there were seven current cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County reported in the week prior, and the province was reporting confirmed COVID-19 cases that had decreased from a week prior, with a rolling average standing at just over 2,700.

In the evening on Jan. 22, TLDSB sent information reminding parents of the in-person start date of Jan. 25, and noting the standard health and safety measures that have been in place throughout the school year thus far as well as new measures that have put in place.

As before, parents and guardians must screen their child for

see LEARNING page 9

(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS
Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.
The schedule of upcoming meetings are:
January 28 – Regular Council Meeting
PLEASE NOTE: The Closed Session meeting will commence following Delegations. The Regular Council meeting and 3rd Draft Budget Deliberations will proceed after the Closed Session Meeting.
February 11 – Committee of the Whole Meeting
Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.
Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
We are looking for a Custodial Labourer to join our team. This is a full time, union position, 40 hrs/week, variable shifts. Rate of pay is \$23.70, pending review. Application deadline is Feb. 12, 2021 by 12:00 noon. Visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca for full posting details and to view the job description.

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TAX STATEMENTS FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES
Requests for Tax Statements can be mailed to the following address, or placed in the Township drop box labelled and located on the north wall of the Administration building facing Pritchard Lane and the Municipal parking lot. It is accessed from the wheelchair entrance and is at the top of the first ramp.
Absolutely no cash is to be deposited in the drop box.
Township of Minden Hills, PO Box 359, #7 Milne Street, Minden, ON K0M 2K0
Please include your name, the property roll number, a mailing address, as well as an email address and/or phone number with your request. Requests will be emailed if an email address is provided; otherwise the statement will be mailed through Canada Post.
Requests must be accompanied by a cheque for the applicable fee of \$10.00, for **each** property roll.
Requests will be processed in accordance with COVID-19 safety protocols, so please allow a minimum of two (2) weeks for processing. If your request does not include all of the required information or fee, the Township will not be held responsible for any delays in providing the requested information.

MASKS AT WASTE FACILITIES
Until further notice, masks are now mandatory outside your vehicle at Minden Hills Waste Facilities. This is for the protection of all site users and we respectfully request your co-operation. This requirement is in line with recommendations from the Province of Ontario.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Pet Fire Safety
Protecting Your Pets from Potential Danger
Home fires are the most common disaster, also the most preventable.

- The best way to protect your pets from the effects of a fire is to include them in your family plan. This includes having their own disaster supplies kit as well as arranging in advance for a safe place for them to stay if you need to leave your home.
- When you practice your escape plan, practice taking your pets with you. Train them to come to you when you call.
- In the event of a disaster, if you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them, too. But remember: never delay escape or endanger yourself or family to rescue a family pet.

WASTE REDUCTION TIP
It takes 2,600 litres of water to make one new t-shirt. Shop second hand to reduce the environmental impact of your closet, and to find unique fashion pieces at serious discounts!

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP #ADM 21-01 Bob Lake Public Boat Launch Design
The Township of Minden Hills and the Bob Lake Association are seeking proposals from qualified consultants for the preparation of a preliminary engineering design sufficient to determine the layout and positioning of a single station boat launching ramp at Claude Brown Road on Bob Lake.
The deadline for submissions is February 5, 2021 by 12:00 noon. Visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca for more information and how to submit a proposal.

Minden Pride organizers maintaining community connection



The Minden Pride Players, directed by Daniel Manley, treated the crowd to a number of tunes, including some by Queen and the Village People, during the flag-raising ceremony for Minden Pride in 2019. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The organizers of Minden Pride are turning an eye to what this summer's festival might look like amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, but also looking at ways to keep community members digitally connected during the ongoing crisis.

New Minden Pride chairperson Allan Guinan hosted a Zoom-based town hall meeting on Jan. 21, with about 40 people taking part. Guinan, who recently took over from past chair David Rankin, was pleased with the turnout.

"I think we're really very cognizant of health and safety issues," Guinan told the *Times* regarding what Minden Pride 2021 might look like. The week-long festival takes place each August, and while it's possible a number of Ontarians will have received a COVID-19 vaccination by that time, "The

assumption would be we'd still probably have a number of events be virtual this year."

Last summer's festival featured a number of online events including a virtual dance party and trivia night, while drive-in movie nights at Abbey Gardens offered socially distant in-person gatherings.

In the meantime, Minden Pride is planning what organizers hope will be at least monthly digital get-togethers to maintain community connection amid the ongoing health crisis.

"There's a lot of people who are very isolated," Guinan said. One such idea is a digital book club meeting, scheduled to take place Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

Minden Pride is also donating a rainbow bench in memory of founder Sinclair Russell to the Township of Minden Hills, and it's hoped that bench installation will take place in the spring.

For more information about Minden Pride and its activities, contact info@mindenpride.ca

New infrastructure funding announced at conference

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Haliburton County and its lower-tier municipalities will collectively receive about \$645,000 in further infrastructure funding through the province's Ontario Community

Infrastructure Fund.

Premier Doug Ford announced \$200 million in new OCIF money for Ontario's rural municipalities during the annual Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference on Jan. 25. Like so many events amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the ROMA conference, which took place Jan. 24 through 26, was held using a virtual format, with municipi-

pal politicians, staffers and keynote speakers participating remotely. Normally the annual event takes place at a hotel in Toronto.

"I appreciate the opportunity to once again speak to our rural mayors at a critical moment in our province's history," Ford said in a digital address. "We've all been through a challenging year with the onset of a global pandemic. At this time last year, no one could have imagined the devastating impact of COVID-19."

"I'm looking forward to rolling up our sleeves and working together for a swift recovery, when the time is right," Ford said. "Until then, I want all our municipal leaders in rural Ontario to know we will always have your backs."

"We recognize that municipalities need flexibility to address their own priority infrastructure needs," Ford said of the OCIF money. The funding is designed to assist municipalities with roads, bridges and culverts, as well as water and wastewater infrastructure.

The program works on a population-based formula. The County of Haliburton will receive nearly \$285,000; Dysart et al nearly \$160,000; Minden Hills just more than \$102,000; and Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East each \$50,000.

"Investing in local infrastructure projects that help strengthen our communities and support Ontario's long-term economic recovery is important to help get shovels in the ground on important community projects," Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP and Ontario Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott said in a release.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was set to shape much of the discussion during the conference.

"This conference comes during a crucial time in the battle against COVID-19," ROMA chairman Allan Thompson said in a statement. "It offers rural municipal officials the opportunity to learn from one another on joint challenges and to advocate for shared priorities. It is important to bring a rural lens to provincial-municipal matters."

HCDC offering cyber security support

The Haliburton County Development Corporation, along with its sister organization in the Kawartha Lakes, is offering a new program designed to assist small and medium-sized enterprises with cyber security and system support.

The organizations have teamed up with E-Tech, a firm offering IT consulting.

"The services provided by E-Tech are designed specifically to help clients succeed in today's complex business environment. With more companies switching to online sales and services due to the COVID 19 pandemic, these services in some cases have become subject to hackers or security breaches," reads a release from HCDC.

Funded through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, (FedDev), the program is free for businesses to use.

"The Haliburton County Development Corporation seeks to support businesses in Haliburton County during these challenging times," Patti Tallman, executive director of HCDC, said in a statement. "As we see many businesses have pivoted their services by providing alternatives ways to generate income having implemented or expanded their on-line presence. This brings on a new meaning to 'open for business' in the cyber highway's back end so to speak, and can be devastating."

For more information on this initiative, contact Tallman at ptallman@haliburtonhcdc.ca or call 705-457-3555.

- Staff

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New executive director at chamber of commerce

by MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It turns out that Haliburton's newest professional import has quite an extensive history in the local community.

Amanda Conn took the reins as executive director of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce earlier this month. It's an unfamiliar role in a familiar place for Conn, who spent her entire childhood cottaging in the Highlands.

"I'm from the GTA originally, but spent a lot of time in Haliburton year-round cottaging with my family. We were up here every single weekend of the year. I would say that I grew up here, even though I wasn't born here," Conn said.

She made her status as an adopted Haliburtonian official around six years ago, purchasing a home in the community. Having spent more than a decade forging a successful career in marketing, specializing in the technology industry, Conn found herself at something of a crossroads as 2020 wound down.

Working remotely comes with its perks, especially if it means you get to avoid long drives down to the city, but Amanda found herself wanting more from her work life. Specifically, she felt a need to do more to help people – like-minded people with an interest in business.

"It sort of fell into my lap – literally," Conn said. "I was looking through the paper one day and noticed the ad for the position with the chamber. Previously, when I was part of a smaller company, we were a member of a board of trade. I got involved in networking events, different programs and it allowed my company to compete on a larger scale with larger companies, so I've always had a fondness for this line of work."

Given that jobs in her chosen profession are so few and far between in rural communities such as ours, Conn took the posting as a sign that, perhaps, this was simply meant to be.

"The more I thought about it, the more I loved the idea. I like to be involved in start-ups, I like to help businesses

grow, succeed and deal with challenges," she said. "I know what it's like in the business world, and I know it's not always easy to see a way out when you're in the situation yourself. Sometimes it's nice to have that entity you can go to for ideas. I thought this would be really interesting, and a way I can contribute, be part of the community and part of networking opportunities for businesses in the area."

By now, she has spent two weeks on the job, learning the ropes and figuring things out. So far, it's been a giant learning curve, but it's one Conn says she's thoroughly enjoying.

"Having been up here my entire life, I really thought I knew the area. But it turns out there are a lot of people that I don't know," Conn said. "It's been great these first few weeks, I've received lots of warm welcomes, and I've been getting up to speed with the different programs and initiatives the chamber offers. We've got a lot of irons in the fire right now. There's a lot going on, which is important because our business community, right now, has a lot of challenges."

2020 was a busy year for the chamber as they sought to support a business community decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic. While many of the programs rolled out, such as the BuyCloseBy and Barter Pay initiatives, will continue in 2021, Conn was quick to point out that additional supports could soon be available.

"We do have some projects we're trying to get funding for. We're working through some planning processes to get more money, so we do have some things in the works," Conn said.

Over the coming weeks and months, Conn says she hopes to meet as many people from the local business community as possible so that she can start helping those who need to get back on their feet.

"In the coming months, I'll be connecting with our members with a focus on supporting them in achieving their business goals. Through current programs, new programs, advocacy and networking opportunities, we continue to be committed to supporting commerce throughout the Haliburton Highlands," Conn concluded.

For more information, visit www.haliburtonchamber.com.



Amanda Conn, the new executive director of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, is excited to start working with the local business community. /Photo submitted

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A grim anniversary

THIS WEEK marked the one-year anniversary of the first confirmed COVID-19 cases in Canada, although it would be several more weeks before the true depth and breadth of the pandemic would become apparent to most of us.

It's a dreary milestone and a year later in Ontario, we have surpassed a quarter-million confirmed cases of the virus, and are approaching 6,000 associated deaths. What had been largely positive public response to government reaction at first, with billions of dollars in aid out the door to Canadians, has turned to criticism in many instances as we weather the second wave of the virus. At the federal level there's been some criticism of vaccine purchasing decisions and delays, and at the provincial level, the Ford government as of late has been criticized for delayed rollout of vaccinations, as well as policy around dealing with the virus in long-term care facilities.

There's also a great deal of varied opinion on whether the provincial government is doing enough to quell the virus's spread. Some believe it's doing the best it can given the complicated and unprecedented nature of the situation, while others believe it's not being nearly restrictive enough in its measures.

Certainly there are many who'd like to see the Ford government imposing more severe restrictions, the sort that have been implemented in countries such as Australia and New Zealand. However, at this point in the pandemic, it's pretty safe to say that isn't going to happen. It seems pretty clear the plan is to bide time with the sorts of measures currently in place until a sufficient number of us have gotten the vaccine, which

the government is optimistically predicting could happen as soon as August. And while August may not seem soon, remember when the pandemic first struck it was thought it could be late 2021 before a viable vaccine was even created.

There's also criticism of the seeming contradictions in directives, and when there are so many in place it becomes difficult for them not to begin to contradict one another. Big box stores may remain open while smaller businesses carrying the same wares are expected to close. We are told to stay home, but many of us are now sending our children back to school and daycare, where they are of course interacting with a bunch of other children.

Our kids have just started going back to daycare a couple of days a week after many months of quality time with mom and dad. Well, the eldest is going back. The youngest is technically going for the first time, and seems to be getting used to it. At 20 months old, the pandemic has literally spanned half of her life, and the vast majority of that time has been spent in our living room. So interacting with children her own age is a new experience for her.

For the three-year-old, it's an exciting return to "school," where she gets to see friends she went many months without seeing. She's excited to go, often sad to leave, and is clearly relishing in the socialization she's been deprived of for so long.

She also knows the golden rule when she gets home: "We have to wash our hands because we've been out in the world, and if we don't wash our hands, we might get COVID."

I couldn't have imagined that a year ago.



CHAD INGRAM
Editor

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I couldn't have imagined that a year ago.

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Kwarky



"Half-dressed pizza special."

That's a wrap

IF YOU ARE an ice angler, you have probably used electrical tape to help secure a reel on your ice fishing rod at least once.

I was doing the very same thing last Saturday, while attaching my new reel to an old rod.

This was not exactly how I intended to spend my Saturday afternoon, but Jenn sent me on an errand to buy some eggs and milk and I somehow came back with a new fishing reel instead. It could have happened to anyone.

Anyhow, while I was securing the reel to the rod with the tape, Jenn was on the nearby couch reading a book and muttering something about milk and eggs. She was also trying to ignore what I was doing. But then, 15 minutes later, she could stay silent no longer. So she asked, "Exactly how much tape do you need to hold that reel on the rod?"

I couldn't help but chuckle.

For, like all people who have far too much common sense and intelligence, Jenn had, up to that point, steered clear of asking any ice fishing-related questions.

So, I presume it came as a shock to her when I said, "I finished taping the reel 30 wraps ago. The last 50 wraps are for my first aid kit."

I then explained that only prepared and organized ice anglers set up a real first aid kit to take out on the ice. The rest of us set up real first aid kits and forget them at home. Hence the electrical tape.

I further explained that this is needed because, at one time or another, every ice angler decides they should slide their finger along the edge of an auger blade to see if it's as sharp as it should be.

"Every ice angler?" she asked, as she shot me a quizzical look.

"OK, just me," I replied.

And just to prove my point, I did just that last Sunday.

The good news is my auger blade was very sharp. The bad news is my auger blade was very sharp. In fact, the only thing that wasn't very sharp that day was me.

I believe only hockey players and ice anglers know there is something about a snowy or icy backdrop that makes every drop of spilled blood seem worse than it actually is. And though this one was hardly more than a glorified paper cut, I believe that, on first glance, the starring psychopath of any slasher movie would have put his chain saw or ax down just to applaud my work.

At a time like this, you think the exact same thing that any other human being would think. "Dear God, I don't want to get blood on my new reel!"

That's when you remember your first aid kit is at home. But you also recall that a six-inch section of electrical tape, wrapped tightly, not only looks cool but stops most bleeding. So, I wrapped my fingertip tightly and continued fishing for a couple of hours without any additional blood loss. For the record, if not for this debilitating wound, I would have caught a fish.

Yet, when I got home that afternoon, I did not make a big deal of it. Despite this, Jenn's eye was immediately drawn to my finger for some reason. Who can say why?

All I know is that one minute I was holding it high, waving it around and letting out manly whimpers, the next she was approaching me with a real Band-aid. Then, while I heroically debated whether our insurance policy would consider this as death or dismemberment, Jenn removed the electrical tape, placed the Band-aid over the cut and spoke those words of comfort every man wants to hear.

"There, that's better. Now why don't you go to the store and buy us some milk and eggs?"



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Prepare for the next one

BAD INFORMATION vomited across social media is so prevalent that it's even showing up in U.S. presidential addresses.

Newly-sworn President Joe Biden's inaugural speech last week contained a bad piece of social media junk. Early in the speech he referred to the "once-in-a-century virus" stalking the country. He, of course, was talking about the COVID-19 pandemic killing hundreds of thousands of people across North America, millions around the world.

There is no such thing as a "once-in-a-century" virus or pandemic. It's nonsense perpetrated on Facebook and other platforms about pandemics occurring every 100 years – 1720 plague, 1820 cholera, 1920 Spanish Flu, 2020 COVID-19.

It's petty of me to criticize Biden for referring to "once-in-a-century." We all know what he meant: comparison between two horrid pandemics 100 years apart – the 1918 Spanish Flu and COVID-19 in 2020.

But there is more at issue here. The 100-year references perpetrate beliefs that these killer pandemics are rare. Many expect that once COVID-19 goes away, it will be many decades before we see another.

Pandemics no longer are rare. Thinking that way sets us up for another disaster of weak leadership and unpreparedness like the one we are suffering through.

There have been half a dozen pandemics in the last century – Spanish Flu 1918-20, Asian flu 1956-58, Hong Kong flu 1968, HIV-AIDS 2005-2012, SARS 2003, Swine Flu 2009. Plus, dozens of serious epidemics.

(Pandemics are epidemics that spread across many countries or continents. Epidemics are serious disease outbreaks that affect large numbers of people in a community or a region).

There are plenty of warnings that more pandemics are on the way. There were numerous warnings that the current pandemic was coming.

The Ontario SARS report gave warnings and recommendations roughly 15 years ago. The book *Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic* gave the warnings in 2012.

Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates warned of it in 2015. Various research studies warned of it over the past few years.

Political leaders around the world shrugged and ignored the warnings, then responded with Milquetoast actions when they saw it had arrived.

Boris Johnson, the British prime minister who has trouble finding his hairbrush in the morning, bounced about like a ping pong ball in his responses to COVID-19. The result has been disaster; British cases closing in on four million, with close to 100,000 dead.

Little needs to be said about our neighbour to the south, a world-leading nation reduced to a garbage dump fire. Its former president, now known as Trumpinocchio, or Igor Trumpinov, simply ignored it, or called it fake news.

The Canadian response has consisted mainly of the prime minister daily standing in front of a microphone telling us the federal government has ordered tens of millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses.

Canada ranks No. 1 in the world in amounts of vaccine doses ordered, but is far behind other countries in the number of doses administered.

Canada's situation will get worse. Pfizer-BioNTech, currently the main supplier of COVID-19 vaccine, has cut Canadian deliveries by 50 per cent for the next month or so. At the start of this week fewer than 90,000 of 38 million Canadians had been fully vaccinated and many of us will not feel the needle until summer or fall or perhaps even next year.

What has happened, and continues to happen, is a disaster caused by unprepared, unfocussed leadership. There's little we can do about it now, except to wait for our turn to be vaccinated while following the advice of our medical experts.

We need to turn our attention to being properly prepared for the next pandemic. We all need to become better informed about deadly viruses, what causes them and encouraging intelligent pandemic planning and stockpiling of equipment and supplies.

Most of all we need to ensure that medical experts are front and centre during the next pandemic while politicians are kept in the background, where they cannot muddle the communication so vital in serious disease outbreaks.

When this is all over don't push it to the rear of your thoughts, because the next zoonotic outbreak is out there waiting to be spilled into the human population by some bat, monkey or other animal host.



JIM POLING SR.

From *Shaman's Rock*

letters to the editor

Who did this?

To the Editor,

Recent events that have taken place, have me and my family riled. Who from the Township of Minden Hills would order five employees to go down to Murdoch Road and shut down access to the lake with big cement blocks? Who would do this with no notice to the public? My friends and I only go down to the lake for ice fishing a couple of times each year. Can you imagine

what these concrete blocks would do to me and my snowmobile? To others and their snowmobiles or ATVs hitting these large cement blocks? Who has ever heard of a lake public access point being closed during the winter, with large concrete blocks with no public notice. Who did this? Anybody with the knowledge please contact me.

Ron Pellerin
Algonquin Highlands

Where did these orders come from?

To the Editor,

Well, hey, everybody that has been following the problems at the Murdoch Road access to Gull Lake for the last three years will know what I'm talking about.

On Jan. 12, I was headed out to my hut to go ice fishing on Gull Lake. I access the lake at the end of the Murdoch Road, on a public access like I've done for the past 40 years. To my surprise they were three Township of Minden Hills vehicles and five employees unloading and set-

ting up large barrier concrete blocks to the block public access.

After speaking to these township employees, they informed me that they were told by higher ups this was a closed access and they were ordered to block it off.

If council members did not take this action then who did?

Where did these orders come from?

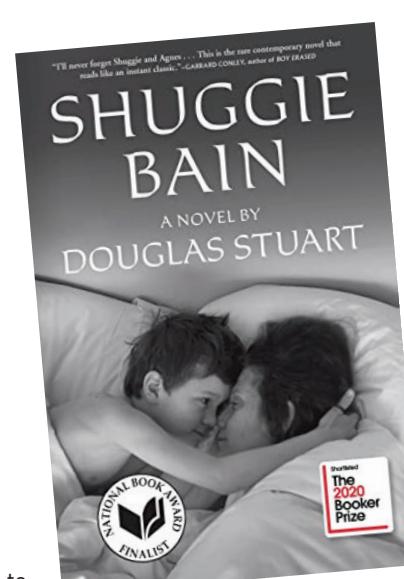
Dave Pettes
Jeff (Boomer) Stamp



Hoo goes there

A reader in Minden snapped this shot of a visiting barred owl. /Submitted photo

HCPL Book of the Month - February



Shuggie Bain is the unforgettable story of young Hugh "Shuggie" Bain, a sweet and lonely boy who spends his 1980s childhood in run-down public housing in Glasgow, Scotland. Shuggie's mother Agnes walks a wayward path: she is Shuggie's guiding light, the image of a Glaswegian Elizabeth Taylor, but under the surface, addiction rages. Agnes drains away the lion's share of the family's benefits on cans of extra-strong lager poured into tea mugs. Meanwhile, Shuggie struggles to become the normal boy he desperately longs to be, but everyone has realized that he is "no right," a boy with a secret that all but him can see.

A heartbreakingly true story of addiction, sexuality, and love, *Shuggie Bain* is an epic portrayal of a working-class family that is rarely seen in fiction. A blistering debut by brilliant novelist Douglas Stuart, who has a powerful story to tell. Check it out from Haliburton County Public Library today.

Weekend of fun scheduled in place of Snowball

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

The pandemic keeps delivering striking blows to public events within the province and locally the narrative is the same.

For the first time since the Dorset Snowball was started in 1991 by the volunteer committee for the Dorset Recreation Centre as a fundraiser, the annual winter event where the warm smiles and savoury treats help to bring a thaw to the chill of the season will not be happening. The cancellation was announced at a Sept. 17 Algonquin Highlands council meeting. Instead, there will be a snow sculpture contest and the virtual kids ice fishing derby on the same weekend the Snow Ball was scheduled to be held.

Sandra Rogers, recreation co-ordinator for the Township of Algonquin Highlands said it was important to give people something to do outdoors, while abiding by COVID-19 protocols, in place of the Snowball.

She referenced how the snow sculpture contest is in line with the township's seasonal contests such as its autumn display contest and its festive lights display contest close to Christmas.

"We just try to keep the spirit going. We just turned to this one for the next season into a snow sculpture contest," she said.

The township last year held a snowman contest during the winter and they expanded the competition this year.

Parameters for what constitutes a winning sculpture are wide open.

"No matter how big or small as long as it's made of snow," she said. "There's no theme behind it."

The prize for the best snow sculpture contest is a \$25 Visa gift card. There is not a fee to register. Deadline to register online or by phone is Feb. 15. For more questions call or email the Dorset Recreation Centre at (705) 766-9968 and submit your photo of your creation at recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca.

Fishing for fun derby

After the success of the municipality's summer's virtual fishing derby this past year during the Family Free Weekend where 50 participants competed, exceeding previous highs for in-person fishing contests where only 40 participated, the idea to hold another one in the winter made sense, Rogers said.

The virtual kids ice fishing derby starts on Feb. 13 and ends on Feb. 15, which coincides with not just the Snowball weekend, but also the Family Fishing Weekend when a fishing permit isn't required, as mandated by the province.

Each participant submits a photo with their given number to show them having fun, or, if they were successful, with their catch.

Currently, there is a limit of 50 participants for the derby, but that could be expanded, depending on demand and if enough prizes are collected to match, said Rogers. The cost is \$3. This helps to cover the cost for prizes. The deadline is Feb. 15. It is technically open to anyone 16 and under in Haliburton County. Every participant is guaranteed a prize bag with an assortment of items, which could be which could be a magazine, fishing lures, winter hats and mitts.

The prizes are only available via curbside pickup at the Dorset Recreation Centre.

This is not a competition so much as an opportunity to get outside.

"It's not necessarily who catches the biggest fish or anything like that. It's all about fun for the kids," Rogers said.

Ice bath

• The time in the bath should not be more than 10 to 15 minutes

It's recommended that the entire body is submerged but starting with feet and legs is best for first time users.

For the greatest result it's best to have an ice bath right after intense exercise.

There are risks when using this type of therapy. The decrease in the body's core temperature when immersed in ice water constricts the flow of blood in the body. This is a dangerous activity for people with preexisting cardiovascular disease or high blood pressure and it should be avoided. Hypothermia is another risk if the time in the cold water lasts for too long.

This is not something I will be trying anytime soon. It's certainly interesting but it's not my idea of stress relief. Guess I'm not as hard core as I thought I

was.

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



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New Cases Reported Today

0	3	2
Haliburton	Kawartha Lakes	Northumberland

Total Confirmed Cases to Date *

47	413	365	825
Haliburton (HAL)	Kawartha Lakes (CKL)	Northumberland (NTH)	HKPRDHU

Note: *Total cases by County and for the Health Unit overall may increase or decrease from previously reported counts as cases may be reassigned to or from the HKPRDHU based on case investigation details and routine data cleaning.

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County *

County	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
Haliburton	5	42	13	0	2	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	68	314	74	2	21	26	13
Northumberland	26	331	52	0	8	6	0

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, HKPRDHU

All Counties	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
HKPRDHU	99	687	152 **	2	31	32	13

Health unit's COVID-19 update

No new confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Haliburton County on Jan. 26. On Jan. 25, one new case and a new hospitalization - the first since April last year - were reported. Currently there are five unresolved cases in Haliburton County, and 13 current high-risk contacts, with 42 cases resolved. / Screenshot from HKPRDHU website



Cycling the shore

Stanhope resident Bob Davis rides his fat bike down North Shore Road while running errands on the day. Davis is a long time rider, and who had generations of family that lived in the area, said he uses the fat bike only in the winter to carry out chores. /DARREN LUM Staff

Learning in some boards remains online only

from page 3

symptoms every day before they come to school using a Ministry of Health Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool and students in all grades are required to wear a mask at school and on the school bus.

A new measure is that elementary students should wear masks outside during recess and breaks, with students needing a mask break to be given a designated space that maintains a minimum six feet distance from others. Also new, is that secondary students outside on school property or leaving the property for breaks must wear a mask, and are not to congregate in groups larger than five and outside of their cohort.

"We are still in a stay-at-home order," reads the note home to TLDSB families. "Therefore, please do not congregate before and after school."

Public schools closed in Ontario last year on March 13, as the novel coronavirus first began to spread across Ontario. Schools opened again in September, with about 15 per cent of students in the TLDSB region opting to study virtually through the board's online program.

Schools in Grey-Bruce Health Unit; Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit; Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington Health Unit; Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit; Peterborough Public Health; Renfrew County and District Health Unit and the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health

Unit were expected to return to in-person learning on Monday. Schools in the Toronto, Peel Region, York Region, Windsor-Essex County and Hamilton public health units will be teaching classes remotely until Feb. 10. Students in northern Ontario were able to return to in-person learning earlier, however some health units opted instead to extend remote learning for students. The provincial government has said that in-person school attendance is optional for the 2020-2021 school year for both elementary and secondary students.

"This allows you to make decisions that work best for your family," reads the Ontario.ca website. Remote learning, either synchronous or asynchronous, or paper-based learning is available through TLDSB. For more information about local cases visit www.hkpr.on.ca.

For more information about COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres visit www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres. Since March, 7,324 school-related cases and 1,632 confirmed cases in child care centres and homes have been reported on that site.

TLDSB COVID-19 information and updates can be found at tlhsb.ca/covid19/.

For more information about the province's reopening schools information, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-reopening-schools>.

- with files from Mike Baker

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West Wind blazing a trail to winter adventures

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

It's easy to hear the passion in the voice of the president of West Wind Highlands Ski Touring Association (WWHSTA) when he speaks about what he loves about backcountry ski touring.

"I love being in the quiet winter woods with my friends and for me that's a place where I experience everything else drop away," Jeff Mann said. "All of my concerns, my work worries, my life outside that moment becomes less of a distraction, and I'm able to just enjoy being present in nature and with the people who I'm fortunate enough to be there with. That's a huge part of it for me."

The newly formed association is a registered not-for-profit association that was officially started in December of last year. It advocates "for and supports the development of self-propelled winter backcountry touring opportunities in Muskoka, the Almaguin Highlands, Haliburton and surrounding areas."

In the first three days after memberships were available on Dec. 1, 30 people had signed up for paid memberships, which was more than half of the association's goal of 50 memberships.

Mann and his fellow board members of the association all love getting outdoors.

For him skiing is a lifelong passion, as he started when he could barely walk.

Ski touring includes two aspects such as skiing on any un-groomed terrain, and completing "runs," which is when individuals climb up a hill on their skis, using what are known as climbing skins on the base of the ski. They then remove the skin to ski down



West Wind Highlands Ski Touring Association (WWHSTA) president Jeff Mann skis a gladed area at the Limberlost Forest Reserve. The recently started association as a registered not-for-profit association that advocates "for and supports the development of self-propelled winter backcountry touring opportunities." It started to offer memberships in December last year. For more information see its website at <http://wwhsta.org/>. /Photo by Scott Turnbull

forested hills.

Earning his turns, Mann said, is part of his enjoyment.

"For me it's almost as much fun to climb up a hill and think about what the most efficient way to do it is and where I should be putting in a switchback to make the climb a little bit easier as it is to ski down the hill," he said. These excursions have provided him quality time with his children and his dog in nature.

The association was formed by a group of friends, who wanted to share their love with others, but also give a voice to skiers like

them.

Informally, this group of outdoor enthusiasts had been going out in the Muskoka and Haliburton Highlands area for more than a dozen years, Mann said. Through Facebook, the group created the Almaguin Backcountry Skiers page and as of last year, it included more than 250 members.

Mann said the association is following in the footsteps of other organizations such as Granite Backcountry Alliance based in the U.S.

The relationship with Limberlost Forest and Wildlife Reserve with 10,000 acres of mixed forest, located east of Oxtongue River in Huntsville which is a venue for some of the association's adventures, started three years ago when Mann and his friends approached the owners about thinning the forest so they could use it to ski on the former ski hill property.

"That was a big part of the genesis of this project too, was us realizing, 'Hey, there are significant land owners in this area who are interested in having skiers come and work on their property and use their property for recreation,'" he said.

Like cycling, there are plenty of options for gear and there is an initial investment to buying equipment, from specific bindings to specific skis such as the "Hok" model, which combines design features of a Nordic ski and a snowshoe. It offers greater efficiency traversing the snow and is adept at descents.

Nordic skis can be used for excursions, but so can downhill ski boots and alpine skis paired with specific backcountry bindings that allow the heel to lift. Mann said when he skis downhill he uses the telemark technique – think Olympic ski jumpers and visualize the form they often take when they land in a lunge position.

Mann said for novices renting is the best option so check with outfitters about renting, as the Huntsville location for Algonquin Outfitters offers rental services.

The goal beyond gaining members for the association, the president said, is organizing and holding two ski tour events later this year, if that is permitted by the health unit amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. One will be held on World Telemark Day on March 7 at Limberlost Forest Reserve and the other will be close to Kearney at Nickle Peak in the Almaguin Highlands in early February.

The association, which focuses on conservationist practices, hopes to establish a "West Wind Standard" to ensure they are "having the least impact possible." This forestry standard will be created in consultation

with foresters, botanists and biologists. He adds the standard also includes an effort to not just adhere to a sustainability ideal, but improve the forest. Mann believes the standard could be applied to public land. He compared this standard to the Whistler Trail Standard, which is used to build mountain bike trails and has become an internationally recognized standard for mountain bike trails, Mann said.

Membership in the association offers people benefits from being allowed to attend events for liability coverage, to being eligible for discounts and offers with area retailers and restaurants, and being allowed influence over association decisions through voting at the annual general meeting.

"In general, it's a vote of support for doing things like developing the West Wind Standard and for doing all the other work we do, whether it's environmental awareness work and those kinds of things too," he said.

The credit for the formation of the association includes the board members, who are Scott Turnbull, treasurer, Annie Scherz, membership director, Gord Baker, secretary, and Jeff "Le Chef" Edwards, vice-president and director of operations. Also deserving of credit is Toronto-based law firm, Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt LLP. Through a person with a connection with the firm, Mann said the association has established a "pro bono relationship." From this relationship, they have provided legal advice to drafting by-laws, create a liability waiver, and facilitated the association to become a federally incorporated not-for-profit.

It's important for novices, Mann said, to find someone that can provide guidance.

"Like a mentor," he said. "And that's something we can really offer through our events and things like that is to help mentor people."

It's a good practice to let someone know where you're going and when you're expecting to return. However, the ideal is to go with someone so you can look out for each other. Be prepared for equipment to fail, so carry spare parts and tools to install them in the case of failure. It's also good to take a first aid kit and know how to administer first aid. A helmet is recommended for downhill skiing. Remember to layer up with clothing and carry supplies such as water and snacks, including a flashlight and a means to start a fire.

One of the most important pieces of advice?

"Stay within your limits with what you're comfortable with," he said.

Glade downhill skiing is for expert skiers, but ski touring can be done by almost anyone and virtually anywhere there is open land and snow.

When asked what he would tell his young self after the years of backcountry activities he has been involved with, Mann says, "Accept the conditions and the day for what it is. Every day is a good day to ski as long as you are making appropriate choices. So it doesn't always have to be a powder day for you to be able to go and enjoy an incredible day of adventuring in the woods."

The association's vision for the future, Mann said, is to create a multi-day ski tour route similar to the hut-to-hut tour options available in Alberta and in Quebec.

"It's that sort of ambition and that sort of long range planning and thinking, when people are signing up is, that's what they are joining," he said. "It's that sort of idea of we have an amazing area here with everything you need for ski touring. You have the snow. You have the terrain. And you have empty accessible space. Those are the things you really need to practice the sport."

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A sunny skate

Kushog Lake resident Sydney Castator goes skating at the outdoor rink in Stanhope on Wednesday, Jan. 20. Sydney was with her sister and mother for their regular midday skate. As the sign indicates, there are COVID-19 protocols in place at the rink, which include no hockey playing. /DARREN LUM Staff

Haliburton hospital ready for patient transfers from GTA

by MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Following another weekend of almost 5,000 new cases of COVID-19 across Ontario and a further 102 deaths, health officials are preparing for the worst with many hospitals, particularly in the GTA, dangerously close to being overrun by this second wave of the pandemic.

While we aren't considered to be in a critical stage here in Haliburton County, staff from Haliburton Highlands Health Services [HHHS] have confirmed the local hospital is on stand-by and may be directed to accept patients from outside the community "at any time."

Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of HHHS, informed the *Times* over the weekend that staff at the local hospital are prepared to step up if they are needed.

"The high number of cases in Toronto and surrounding areas has led to an increase in hospital admissions, including ICU admissions, in the GTA, which is putting pressure on the overall health system," Plummer said. "As a result, all hospitals in the province, including HHHS, have been directed to accept transfers from other hospitals if asked, and if we have open beds available, in order to help address these system capacity concerns."

Plummer adds that the direction received from the ministry of health suggests these transfers could include both non-critical medical patients, and also non-critical COVID-positive patients.

She confirmed that, as of Friday evening [Jan. 22], HHHS has not received any transfers from other hospitals as a result of this new directive.

The HHHS site in Haliburton currently houses 14 patient beds in their acute care and emergency departments. The facility also includes two beds in its palliative care centre. Plummer confirmed the hospital has not been able to repurpose spaces in its facilities, including its site in Minden, to create additional capacity due to staffing shortages.

"Similar to other hospitals, we continue to be challenged to have sufficient staffing to cover all of those beds, so not all of them are open at this time," Plummer said. "The number of open beds we have does fluctuate as our staffing situation changes. We are continuing to recruit new staff to help address these shortages."

As of Monday morning [Jan. 25], there are 23,620 unresolved cases of COVID-19 in Ontario, with 1,398 individuals hospitalized and 397 individuals in ICU. In total, 5,846 individuals from across the province have died since the onset of the pandemic last March.

Here in the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, there are 99 unresolved cases – five of those in Haliburton County, 68 in the Kawartha Lakes and 26 in Northumberland County. There are two further probable cases within the region, and 139 high-risk contacts. There are 31 individuals hospitalized across the health unit, although which hospitals they are spread across has not, and will not be disclosed.

Plummer confirmed that, should it be necessary, HHHS could support an individual who requires hospitalization due to COVID-19.

"This depends on the severity of symptoms and the specific healthcare needs of the patient," Plummer stated, after being asked if a Haliburton-based COVID-positive patient would

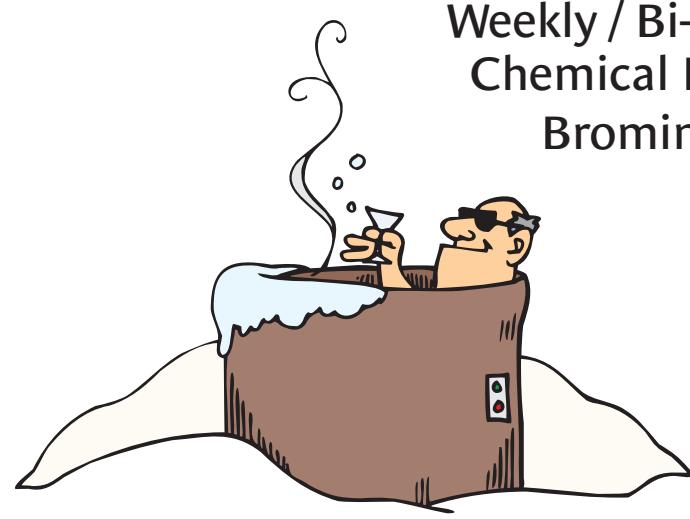
be transferred to another facility. "We are prepared for and can accommodate patients who are COVID-positive, however should they require more intensive care, we would transfer them to a hospital with a critical care unit."

With the seven-day average of new daily cases falling to less than 3,000, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. David Williams indicated the current lockdown, which will remain in place until Feb. 19, has helped to stop the spread of this second wave of the coronavirus. Still, he said the province must cut its daily COVID-19 case counts to below 1,000 before lockdown measures can be lifted.

He called the goal "achievable", even though it's been almost three months since the province reported a three digit daily increase, the last coming in late October.

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Long-Term Care Coalition hopes to inspire change in 'broken' industry

by MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After issuing a proverbial call to arms last May, a new community group committed to improving conditions within the region's long-term care homes is continuing to share their concerns that many senior residents living within those facilities are not being treated with respect and dignity.

Local residents Bonnie Roe and Mike Perry launched the Long-Term Care Coalition after hearing horror stories from friends and family who have loved ones presently living in nursing homes and retirement facilities. Together, the pair rallied a small group of community activists, who have spent the past eight months lobbying for drastic systemic change to the long-term care system.

Speaking to the *Times* recently, the pair pointed towards the devastating COVID-19 outbreak at nearby Pinecrest Nursing Home in Bobcaygeon last March and the disastrous roof leak and subsequent months-long evacuation of Highland Wood in Haliburton as big indicators that change is not only needed, but long overdue.

"We're very concerned that our seniors are not being treated with respect and dignity," Roe said. "When you look at the resources that are going in to support our seniors, it's not enough. And that's really our crucial issue – that these people are not getting the amount of care that they need."



The disastrous roof leak and subsequent months-long evacuation of Highland Wood in Haliburton was one of the underlying reasons Bonnie Roe and Mike Perry came together to form the Long-Term Care Coalition. /File photo

As a registered nurse in her professional life, this is an issue that is particularly close to Roe's heart.

"This is an important issue to me. I have spent time, at one point in my career, working in a long-term care facility, so when I see seniors being isolated, when I see the government not providing the care, or the necessary funds to these long-term care institutions, it just breaks my heart," Roe said. "I do not think that seniors, in their final days, deserve to be placed in a home, and then be ignored and disrespected."

The coalition has established a list of five core priorities it intends to chip away at over the coming months. Right at the top of the list is advocating for the inclusion of long-term care to the Canada Health Act, a move that Perry says will completely change the way the sector operates.

"We need to fix the system. When you think about it, long-term care is considered to be a part of general healthcare. So, really, it should be under the Canada Health Act. Doing that does two things – it makes funding exclusively public, and it also provides national standards. Enforceable national standards," Perry said.

"Tommy Douglas [considered the father of universal health coverage in Canada] always said that Medicare as we know it, it was always phase one. Then there would have to be other phases implemented to make sure we have a more holistic system," Perry added. "What we've seen now, given the ongoing pandemic, is a spotlight highlighting some of the shortcomings of long-term care. And many of these issues have been long-standing."

Back in May, after sending soldiers into many of Ontario's long-term care homes to help deal with the mass outbreaks of COVID-19, the Canadian Armed Forces released a damning 15-page report shining a light on the horrible conditions its members witnessed at five nursing homes in the GTA.

Brigadier General C.J.J. Mialkowski noted that military members identified a number of medical, professional and technical issues present at the sites, mainly in the standards and quality of medical care provided to residents.

In the immediate aftermath of the report being made public, Merrilee Fullerton, Ontario's minister of long-term care, said the provincial system had been "ignored" and "neglected" for decades. Premier Doug Ford called the whole system "broken" and

promised that much-needed changes would be imminent.

The best way to implement real change, Perry believes, is to take away the money-making aspect of the business.

"We need to get profit motives out of long-term care. I have no idea why we ever conceptualized caring for our elderly as a profit making venture in the first place," Perry said. "The pandemic is really encouraging us to rethink and reimagine things, and I think this would be a good place to start."

Roe brings up the Butterfly Model of Care, first conceptualized in Europe and today being used in long-term care systems across the globe, predominantly with individuals living with dementia, as a positive example of putting the needs of residents first. The model focuses on delivering emotion-focused care that connects with people in a dignified, human way. It addresses the holistic needs of individuals and supports good quality of life for residents.

To help change the culture of long-term care to being more resident-centred and rights based, Roe believes the industry needs to implement several recommendations made by the Registered Nursing Association of Ontario to increase staffing at all facilities. A key cog of this recommendation calls for every resident to receive at least four hours of direct care every day, while it also states facility administrators should look to improve workloads, working conditions and conditions for care. The report also calls for increased infection prevention and control.

Roe believes the reinstatement of annual resident quality inspections of all long-term care homes, with consistency in enforcement when inspections yield rule violations in homes, could go a long way towards fixing some of the issues presently plaguing the industry.

While changes are necessary, Perry wants to make it clear that he believes the problems that persist today are a result of a broken system rather than anything to do with the staff who work inside the homes.

"We support and are very grateful for our frontline workers. To us, this is an issue of the problems within the system and structure that have existed for some time. COVID-19 just brought them to the fore," Perry said. "We know that staff are working hard and are getting burnt out and need more resources, and pay, and training. Those are all things that we've built into our goals as well."

The LTC Coalition presently boasts around seven core members, with a further 40 to 50 offering varying levels of support, Roe said. The group is hosting a virtual town hall meeting this Friday [Jan. 29] at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of, hopefully, finding more members and soliciting local residents' ideas and opinions on how to fix Ontario's long-term care sector.

The group is also participating in an ongoing radio campaign, running until Feb. 5 on CanoeFM here in Haliburton County and BobFM, based in Lindsay. The purpose of that initiative, Roe says, is "just to bring more awareness to our group."

Perry, in particular, is excited for the upcoming town hall.

"We're going to use that to really listen to those who participate, and use that information to decide our future action. We know there are lots of good ideas and suggestions out there right now, but we're really trying to focus and make sure that we're effective on a short list of the main changes we feel are in need to the system," Perry said.

For more information on the group, and to find out how to tune into the upcoming town hall, visit ltnedsyou.ca.

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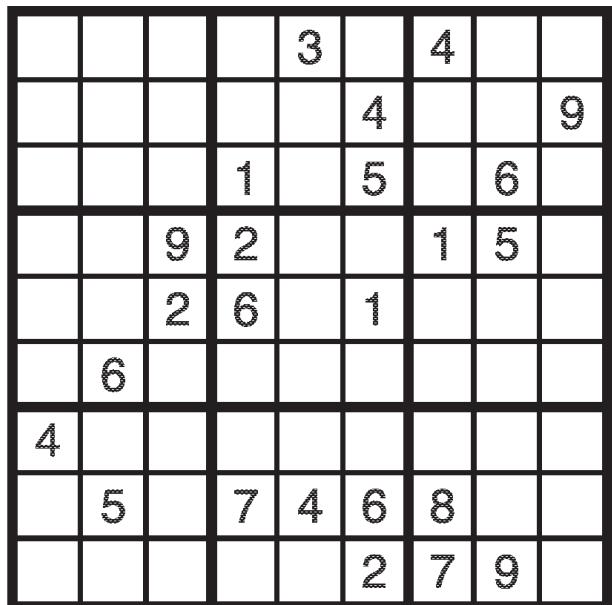
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Answers on page 14

First doses of COVID-19 vaccine arrive in local health region

by MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit received its first allocation of COVID-19 vaccine on Monday evening, with staff planning to start vaccinating residents of the area's long-term care homes this week.

The local unit received 700 doses of the Moderna vaccine, with more potentially on the way next week. The vaccines are being stored at Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay, and will be delivered to long-term care homes by the local health unit.

"This is the day we have been waiting for," said Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health for the HKPR district health unit. "We have been working with our local hospital partners and our long-term care and retirement homes to work out the logistics of getting this vaccine into as many arms as quickly as possible."

It is expected that between 100 and 150 vaccinations will take place each day over the course of the next week, with residents of Pinecrest Nursing Home in Bobcaygeon, Hope Street Terrace in Port Hope and Maplewood Long-Term Care Home in Brighton were among the first group to be vaccinated.

As of press time, there was no word on when the first doses may arrive in Haliburton.

"Unfortunately, we know that what we have received will not ensure that all of our long-term care residents are vaccinated with this week's supply," Dr. Gemmill said. "We have had to determine priorities about which [homes] gets the vaccine first, and we are hopeful that we will soon receive more vaccine so we can complete the immunization of residents and staff of both our long-term care homes and retirement homes."

There are approximately 1,600 residents living in long-term care homes across the region, with more than 2,000 staff working at those sites.

OPP looking for snowmobile driver who went through ice

On Monday, Jan. 25 at approximately 8:15 a.m., members of the City of Kawartha Lakes detachment of the OPP responded to a call for service in the area of Shadow Lake Road #3 near the mouth of the Gull River.

Upon arrival, officers assessed the area and were able to locate a fresh opening in the thin ice, consistent with a snowmobile going through. A submerged snowmobile was also observed in the lake, which remains in the water pending recovery.

The officers thoroughly searched the area, however, were not able to locate the operator of the submerged snowmobile. The officers believe that the individual operating the snowmobile was able to get out of the water and make it to the shore. The police would like to speak to the individual to ensure they are in good health and do not require medical assistance.

A complex search and recovery process is scheduled to resume tomorrow. The OPP encourage anyone with information about this incident to contact the City of Kawartha Lakes OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Your information could assist with resolving this incident and potentially save valuable resources.

Submitted by the OPP



Clearing for takeoff

A snow clearing machine plows the apron and taxiways to the runway on Jan. 20 at the Stanhope Airport. Although there hasn't been a major snow event this winter, there has been enough accumulation across the Highlands for ideal conditions for winter activities such as Nordic skiing and snowshoeing in certain areas. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Severity of mental health cases increasing in Haliburton County

by MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Since April of last year, the Canadian Mental Health Association of Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge has offered support to 160 individuals from across Haliburton County.

Unsurprisingly, the organization has seen a “slight uptick” in the demand for services since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic last spring, but more concerning for Jack Veitch, manager of community engagement and education with the local CMHA branch, is the severity of many of those cases.

“We have supported quite a number of people – for Haliburton, I would say 160 people is a pretty strong number,” Veitch told the Echo. “We’ve seen a slight uptick in volume, and we’re seeing that both for our general service, and also our crisis service. I think what’s most important to note, however, is that it’s not even that the general volume is increasing, it’s that the volume of intensity of need is increasing too. Even if it’s not necessarily a huge spike in the number of people requiring our services, the needs of those who are reaching out are becoming much more intense and complex, especially due to the pandemic’s effect on our health and wellness.”

Thursday [Jan. 28] marks the 11th iteration of Bell Let’s Talk Day. Over the course of the day, Bell will donate five cents from every text message, mobile and long distance call made by Bell wireless and phone customers and five cents from every tweet, TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram posting containing the hashtag #BellLetsTalk.

All money raised through the initiative will be reinvested back into different mental health programs and initiatives all over Canada. Since launching in 2010, the event has provided more than \$113 million to 775 organizations nationwide. Last year, Bell committed to funding its Let’s Talk initiative for a further five years, a move that is expected to take their total investment to at least \$155 million.

Some of that money has trickled down to the CMHA

here in Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge in previous years, Veitch says, supporting much-needed crisis intervention clinics and other programs. He confirmed the association would once again apply for funding in 2021.

“It’s definitely our view to be applying again to support some of the programs we want to deliver. I don’t have anything I can share right now, but in a more general sense organizationally, we want to look at all avenues to continue doing what we do, and expand our services across the region,” Veitch said.

CMHA offers a wide-variety of programs and services in Haliburton County, including the At Work/Au Travail Employment Program, designed to provide specialized vocational assistance to those seeking opportunities to enter or reintegrate into the workforce; Four County Crisis, which provides a continuum of comprehensive crisis response services to individuals with serious mental health illness, mental health concerns and individuals in crisis; Gender Journeys, which provides programming, education and support services for those who are transgender, 2-spirit, gender diverse and individuals who are questioning their gender identity; Peer Support, which brings an individual who has experienced a mental health concern, or have a close relationship with someone who has experienced a mental health concern face-to-face with an individual who is struggling in the hopes it can help provide better outcomes; and various community engagement and education workshops and training sessions designed to teach people about mental health.

The local association is also one of eight partner agencies involved in a four-county rapid response treatment and education service for young people called Lynx – Early Psychosis Intervention. Designed for individuals between the ages of 14 and 35, the initiative works on the basis that early identification, assessment and treatment can lead to significantly improved outcomes for individuals suffering with a psychotic illness.

“We assist anyone 16 years of age and older, to help them with whatever goals they may have. We help people manage symptoms of serious mental health concerns or illness. We help people with housing, with their vocation, we help people involved in the justice system,” Veitch said. “We have a 24-hour crisis line that’s open seven days a week, 365 days a year that people can call if they’re struggling, or need help, whatever the case may be.”

Veitch said the local CMHA also has a “boots on the ground” case manager who works intensively with people one-to-one to help them through their issues.

While he believes those who need mental health supports should absolutely seek them out, Veitch says he doesn’t buy

“

Mental health is like any other illness. Most illnesses left untreated over a period of time, more often than not, the symptoms will get worse. Mental health is no different.

— JACK VEITCH

”

into the idea that mental health can only be improved by way of professional assistance.

“I think there is certain credence to the idea that we can do things independently to benefit our mental health. I would think if I’m exercising, keeping active, making sure I’m eating properly, making sure I’m connecting with peers and getting adequate sleep – those are things I can do that are going to take care of my mental health,” Veitch said.

“What I would suggest though, if it’s becoming problematic, the last thing you want to do is bottle things up, or not reach out for help. Mental health is like any other illness. Most illnesses left untreated over a period of time, more often than not, the symptoms will get worse. Mental health is no different,” Veitch added. “If you leave those symptoms untreated over time, they’re going to worsen.”

There are some easy-to-spot signs that can indicate someone is struggling with their mental health, Veitch points out.

“There are always things – the one people can often look to is isolation, or withdrawal. Changes in appetite is another big one, or lack of interest in appearance or activities that would otherwise have caused excitement,” Veitch said. “The one I always come back to and remind people of is a major change in baseline behaviour. Seeing a person change their behaviour in a way that may be abnormal for them is a major red flag. That may be an indicator, to me, to start a conversation and see how they’re doing.”

When it comes to mental health, now more than ever, every action counts. Whether big or small, our actions can make a big difference in moving Canada’s mental health forward.

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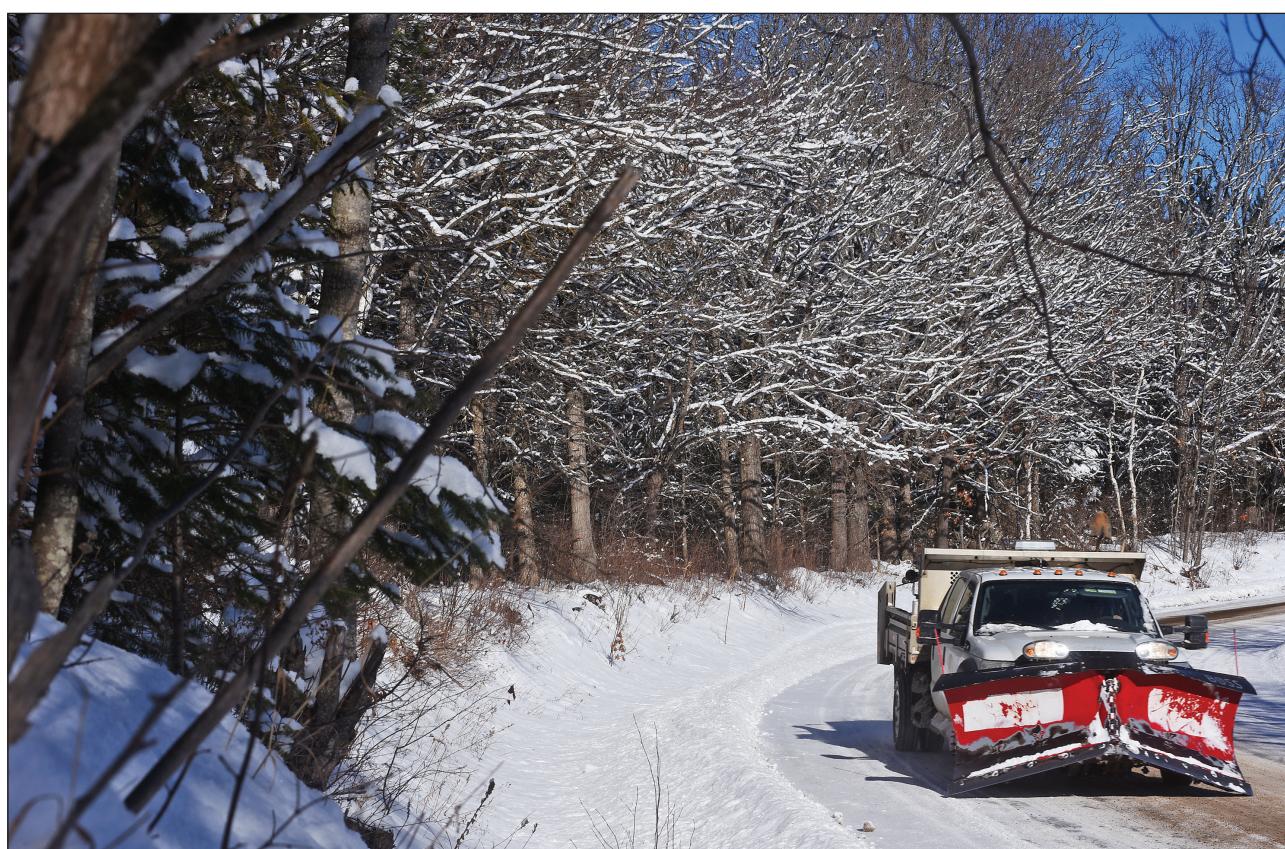
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4	2	7	3	8	9	6	1	5
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Signs of the season

Trees along North Shore Road showcase the beauty of the season with its outline of thick snow on the branches, as a snow plow truck passes on Wednesday, Jan. 20 in Stanhope. /DARREN LUM Staff



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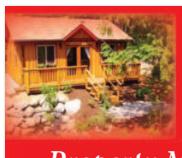
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Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub Care Coordinator (Full Time / Permanent)

Under the direction of the YWH Manager, working within the context of a multidisciplinary team, the Care Coordinator will, in collaboration with youth and their families, assess care needs, determine eligibility for services, and develop individual care and service plans and is passionate about making sure every stone is overturned in order to help youth get the service and supports they require. Membership, in good standing, with the applicable regulatory body: College of Psychotherapists of Ontario, Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers. 2+ years of recent experience in community health or a related field. Knowledge of the health care delivery system and community resources.

We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders and sexual orientation.

Please visit www.pointintime.ca for a detailed job description.

Send resume by February 12, 2021 to:

Mary Sisson, Youth Wellness Hub Manager marys@pointintime.ca
 or Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents
 P.O. Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub Peer Support Worker (Full Time / Permanent)

Under the direction of the Youth Wellness Hub Manager and alongside a coordinated service team, the Peer Support Worker will provide support to youth who access services and recreation at the Haliburton County Youth Hub. They will support and assist in creating a safe and accepting environment for youth (12-25) with a special emphasis on the LGBTQ, Indigenous youth and other marginalized community youth. Supports and services provided at the Youth Hub include, but are not limited to, mental health, addictions, employment, housing, primary care and outreach. Good communication/interpersonal skills, education or volunteer/work experience in social services or related field, knowledge of anti-oppression and inclusion including knowledge of supporting LGBTQ+ youth and creating positive spaces, knowledge of youth engagement principles and practice is an asset, knowledge of Haliburton community, community resources and the Youth Hub is an asset.

We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders and sexual orientation.

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Send resume by February 12, 2021 to:

Mary Sisson, Youth Wellness Hub Manager marys@pointintime.ca
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 P.O. Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub Intake Coordinator/Reception Full Time / Permanent

Under the direction of the Youth Wellness Hub Manager, the Intake Coordinator/Receptionist is responsible for helping create an inclusive, welcoming culture for youth 12-25, booking appointments, receiving and processing external referrals, reception duties, providing administrative support to management and staff, maintaining the Dacima database and EMHware and clinical records and generating reports. High School education (Grade 12); 1-3 years related experience working in mental health or related field; Human Service diploma an asset.

We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders and sexual orientation.

Please visit www.pointintime.ca for a detailed job description.

Send resume by February 5, 2021 to:

Mary Sisson, Youth Wellness Hub Manager
marys@pointintime.ca

or

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents
 P.O. Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue
 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0



Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub Mental Health and Addictions Clinician (Full Time / Permanent)

Under the direction of the YWH Manager, working within the context of a multidisciplinary team, the Clinician will provide therapeutic interventions and addiction/harm reduction supports to youth, ages 12-25, dealing with addictions and substance use, based on evidenced-based practices. Using a client-centered approach, the Clinician will conduct mental health assessments and provide therapeutic supports and/or interventions to youth, including but not limited to solution-focused narrative therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, dialectical behavior therapy, and motivational interviewing. This can include a whole spectrum of supports and services from referrals with the hub, to external providers, and involve direct support and treatment from harm reduction to withdrawal support and relapse prevention services. Bachelor/Masters of Social Work, Psychology, or related degree, with a postgraduate certificate in Addictions and Mental Health, or an equivalent combination of work experience and education. Current Certificate of Registration with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW); or current registration with The College of Psychotherapy. Minimum 2 years' experience working in a related position preferred, ideally in a community-based setting. Valid First Aid & CPR certificate or willingness to obtain.

We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders and sexual orientation.

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Haliburton Highlands Health Services has a need for Temporary Full-Time and Temporary Part-Time staff for the noted classifications below.

RN's and RPN's are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The Registered Nurse earns \$33.56 /hr - \$48.05/hr and is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Two years of acute care practice is required; previous emergency department or specialty department experience of 1 year or more is preferred. Recent experience is preferred.

Registered Practical Nurses earn \$30.58 - \$31.17/hr and provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a client's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to fully communicate in English.

Personnel Support Workers earn \$22.25- \$24.85/hr and provide resident care in relation to activities of daily living. PSW's help residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. Successful completion of Personal Support Worker program which meets one of the following:

The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, The standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association; and Must be a minimum of 600 hours in duration, counting both class time and practical experience.

The Caregiver Support Aide earns \$18.50/hr. S/he provides support to our PSW's in relation to specific activities of resident and patient daily living, quality of life, environment management and continuous communication. Assists our PSW's with dressing, meal service and nourishment, assists with personal grooming, changing linens etc. Registered graduate of grade 12 or equivalent maturity and experience, with a willingness to register in a PSW certificate program and complete it within three years.

Observers/screeners earn \$14.50/hr and work on an as needed basis in 4 hour, 8 hour, or 12 hour shifts depending on Patient/Resident needs. The Observer is an unregulated health care provider who is primarily responsible for the close observation of patients whose behavior poses a risk to his/her safety or the safety of others. The Patients/Residents you are observing are often elderly people who are living with dementia or other conditions that impact their memory and judgment. As a Screener, you act as a greeter and screener at facility entrances in Minden and Haliburton locations, to ensure anyone who enters is well. Minimum Grade 11, or equivalent, from the Ministry of Education (Ontario) with a demonstrated working knowledge of spoken and written English and experience working in a health care setting, security, related social service, or educational field will be an asset.

There may be many who have worked related fields and training on site will provide the basics you require for a temporary role.

Interested: Submit your application and resume to:

Human Resources
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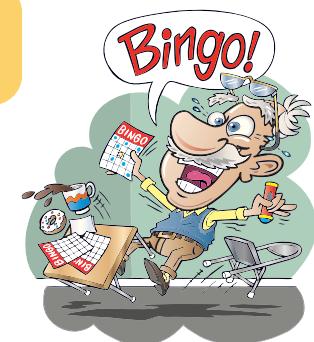
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In Loving Memory of
Aileen Mary Brown (nee Watson)
Born in Kinmount, Ontario on April 27, 1922 and quietly passed away at Caressant Care, McLaughlin in Lindsay, Ontario on January 18, 2021 in her 99th year.

Daughter of the late Herbert and Marg Watson. Predeceased by her husband George Brown (2005). Dear mother of Joan (Dave) Parton, Barb (Doug) Meagher, Marg (the late Gerry) Luke, the late Len (2014)(Carol) Brown, Gloria (John) Clarke, Angus (Anthea) Brown, Kevin Brown and predeceased by her infant daughter Rosemary. Loving grandmother of many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren. Also predeceased by her brother Joe Watson and by her sister Lorraine Barker. Loving remembered and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

In keeping with Aileen's wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of her life and interment at St. Patrick's Catholic Church Cemetery, Kinmount will be held at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Sick Children's Hospital, Cystic Fibrosis or to a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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Monday, January 19, 1998

Highlands wood will warm ice storm victims

Haliburton County is doing its part to help the victims of the ice storm that ripped through eastern Ontario earlier this month.

Haliburton County Warden Murray Fearrey announced that a load of cured firewood has been sent into the region. The load left Thursday from the Kinmount Wood products yard near Wilberforce.

"We worked through the Emergency Measures Organization," Fearrey said. "They directed the load to Alexandria, where it arrived on Friday."

The double load of dried, cut and split wood was unloaded by army personnel. It is being made available to local residents who require the fuel to heat their homes.

Fearrey said the suggestion for the firewood donation came from a number of reeves in the county who felt the local communities should be helping out somehow. The firewood donation appeared to be the most appropriate since Haliburton County exports firewood to other parts of the province.

He noted that Anson, Hindon and Minden Reeve Jeanne Anthon mentioned it at a committee meeting and that the Snowden Council had discussed the idea of sending some help at its regular Monday night meeting.

According to the Warden, the load contained 17 bush cords or about 51 face cords of wood. The cost of the wood, including delivery, was about \$3500.

Monmouth Reeve Keith Tallman, who visited the wood supply yard near Wilberforce, commented that the gift of wood was appropriate and the right thing to do. "They need our help. We have the wood. Who knows, some day we could be looking for assistance in a similar situation. It is good to be able to lend a hand and help them out," Tallman said.

(For a personal account of the trials of living through the storm, see the column on page 6. Ontario Hydro and Ministry of Natural Resources personnel from the local offices, as well as a number of private contractors have moved into the stricken area to assist with the clean-up. Anyone wishing to make a financial contribution to the Red Cross relief effort may do so at the Toronto Dominion Bank in Minden, through donations being collected this week at Archie Stouffer Elementary School (see story below) or by calling the Red Cross at 1-800-850-5090.)

ASES students issue icy challenge

Students and staff at Archie Stouffer Elementary School have issued a challenge to all of the schools in the District #15 School Board. They are challenging each school to donate a dollar for every student and staff member. The money will be donated to those in need in eastern Ontario and Quebec.

At the Minden school, donations from students and staff will be accepted all this week. The public is invited to get involved as well. The money raised will go to the Canadian Red Cross to aid in the relief and cleanup effort.

Special Education Resource Teacher, Eric Thompson, came up with the idea last year during the Manitoba flood. At that time ASES raised \$950.30 for the relief effort in and around Winnipeg last spring. This

year, before he had a chance to suggest the fundraiser again, several teachers approached him about the idea. "It is a good opportunity for the students to collect and organize money," said Thompson. "It becomes an extension of the learning process. This will give them a chance to apply what they have learned in a real situation. There is learning involved as well as the humanitarian aspect."

The Icy Challenge was sent to the superintendents of the District #15 School Board, who then distributed the information to all of schools. The school board includes schools in Victoria, Haliburton and Muskoka.

The money will be collected by the students' council representatives of each class, *(more on page 3)*



Monmouth Reeve Keith Tallman with Kinmount Wood Products yard foreman Ken Ablett, inspects some of the firewood which the county sent to the victims of the ice storm in eastern Ontario. The 17 bush cords were delivered to Alexandria where residents without heat could use it to stoke their fireplaces and wood stoves.

CHACE Daycare given green light for another year

by Ariel White

CHACE Inc. Daycare has been given a reprieve. The County of Haliburton Agency for Child Enrichment Board of Directors made the unanimous decision to maintain the facility for the next fiscal year, at a meeting on January 13.

The daycare centre faced certain closure on November 21, 1997, but after protest from concerned parents, the date was postponed until March 31 of this year, with the provision that the service increased both enrolment and funding support by that deadline.

CHACE Director Diane Loucks said that the centre is working hard to do just that. "It's coming along slowly, but we are on the right track," said Loucks. "We are very, very pleased with this decision. It's a go for the next fiscal year."

According to Loucks, there are 2.5 full day equivalent spaces that have been filled at the centre, with another two,

pending subsidy, and 1.5 other possible participants. It is hoped that nine spaces will be filled by the March deadline. There are still spaces available for both toddlers and preschool children in the CHACE program.

As of January 13, the parents fundraising committee had gathered \$5,869.09. The money was raised through a cheese sale and the CHACE daycare dream raffle. The centre is hoping to raise another \$7200 for the daycare coffers throughout the coming year. There are plans for other fundraising campaigns in the next couple of months, which include the sale of Nevada tickets at the Esso Station in Norland, as well as a bingo on February 8 at 12:30. The daycare centre is also accepting donations from the community.

"They (the fundraising committee) are doing very well and have made plans for projects into June and July," said Loucks.

Gord Schakelaar, the president of CHACE said that the March 31 deadline was making it difficult for the enrolment committee to entice new participants into the program. He said that no one wants to go to the trouble of enrolling a child in a daycare facility that may only be open for another six weeks. "The fundraising committee is working hard to meet the goals that we set out for it. But we felt that we had to give the enrolment a chance," said Schakelaar. "How can we expect the committee to do its job if the daycare is going to close?"

Diane Loucks agrees with Schakelaar, that the enrolment will benefit from the announcement. "This will maintain the stability in the program," she said.

Although the daycare will continue to operate, the board is still expecting the enrolment to meet its target of nine full day equivalent spaces, especially with toddlers and preschoolers.

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Lakefront Property Owners,

The Haliburton County Home Builders Association has spent the last few weeks bringing forward a few facts regarding the proposed Shoreline By-law that the County of Haliburton is attempting to implement. The goal of our media campaign is to bring awareness of the By-law to the waterfront property owners in the County.

The HCHBA is urging you to contact your municipal elected officials, Lake Association Executive as well as your M.P. and M.P.P. to voice your concerns and to ask questions. We also encourage you to visit the HCHBA website (www.hchba.ca/resources) where we have posted information relating to the proposed Shoreline Preservation By-law. We ask you to speak to your neighbours about their thoughts and we encourage you to write our local newspapers with your concerns.

Report - December 21, 2020.

Haliburton County is home to hundreds of beautiful lakes, and through each passing season, these waters are the heart and soul of the residents who live here. In recent months there have been concerns raised about the presence of algae in these lakes we so deeply love and enjoy. With environmental care informing each meeting, the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association wants to learn more about the relationship between human habitation and algae growth. Under the guidance of the HCHBA, a study was commissioned procuring a scientific report of algal blooms in Haliburton County. With this report, the HCHBA aims to reinforce the importance of proper scientific research when exploring new bylaws and policies which will affect the development of our communities.

The HCHBA has engaged a Doctor of Biological Sciences and Micro Biology. She is currently working on bio stimulants to decrease the use and environmental impact of conventional fertilizer as well as seaweed cultivation as a strategy to reduce diffuse nutrient runoffs.

Algal Blooms in Haliburton County

Blue-Green Algae: Cyanobacteria Facts and Fixes

Blue-green algae, or more specifically, Cyanobacteria date back 3.5 billion years¹. They photosynthesize like plants and produce oxygen. In fact, they are responsible for producing around 30% of all oxygen on earth². There are over 2000 different types of blue-green algae and you will recognize some of the beneficial applications that are being developed using them³. For example, natural colourants in cosmetics, natural sunscreens, protein and vitamin supplements, as well as biofuels³. You may have even consumed some blue-green algae or Spirulina in your morning smoothie⁴.

Cyanobacterial blooms: A multitude of causes

Lately, cyanobacteria have gotten a bad reputation for their role in lake water quality – especially for their potential to form harmful algal blooms and toxins. However, despite their long-lasting history and benefit to earth, the phenomenon of harmful blooms is still not well understood by scientists^{3,5}.

Here's what we do know. Triggers of algal blooms include³:

- 1) Stagnant water
- 2) High water temperatures – above 25°C
- 3) Nutrient availability, especially the ratio of nitrogen and phosphorus in water
- 4) High levels of dissolved carbon dioxide in water
- 5) Long sunlight hours
- 6) Sedimentation of other microscopic organisms
- 7) Light winds

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Haliburton County
Home Builders Association
www.hchba.ca

If you have any questions, we at the HCHBA recommend that you write, email, or call your municipal elected officials with your comments or concerns. The Draft Bylaw and Questions and Answers can be found on our website under 'Resources' at www.hchba.ca

#Building with the Environment in Mind

Cyanobacteria blooms: What is the solution for Haliburton County?

But what can we do about it? Control of algal blooms is both difficult and controversial. It is safe to say there is no silver bullet and no one-size-fits-all approach. A recent study found that one of the most important factors in successfully mitigating algal bloom is relying on local knowledge⁶. Do we have leaky or aging septic systems? Are we nutrient loading our waters through intensive farming? Do we have storm runoff entering our lakes? Is our municipal sewage and stormwater system up to scratch?

Informed decisions for effective action

It's easy to point fingers and shift blame but it is impossible to make informed decisions without doing our homework. That's why, alongside our local knowledge, our next most important tool is monitoring. Water quality monitoring will take us leaps and bounds closer to understanding the risk and true causes of algal bloom in Haliburton County. We should be testing water quality regularly, and specifically after storms, high boating traffic weekends, just after the lakes thaw, after leaf fall in autumn... Only then can we make effective changes for the better. Informed, evidenced action will always trump clumsy reactions.

One example of the most common causes of algal bloom is stagnant water; that is why some prevention strategies employ large propellers or artificial oxygenation to combat it and keep water moving⁷. Light winds can expand existing blooms, pushing them to the shoreline while stronger winds can dissipate them. Agitated water makes it very difficult for a network of algae to form a bloom. However, implementing propellers where the true problem is nutrient runoff would be futile⁷.

In the same way, addressing nutrient release from lake sediment stirred by high boat traffic, or leaf decay in autumn with vast tree planting onshore will not fix the problem. We need to assess our situation with an open mind and take pragmatic steps towards properly studying and understanding our true environmental impact while keeping our local economy in mind.

Closing remarks

Toxic algal bloom is a global problem brought on by a multitude of factors. There is no simple fix, and we are fortunate to not have experienced any noteworthy events thus far. Prevention is a key strategic goal, both environmentally and economically, but this will only be achieved through proper water quality monitoring and using all the tools and local knowledge available to us to take rational and evidenced action.